

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheets of drawings include changes to Figures 15-17. As required by the Official Action, the Applicants have amended Figures 15-17 to include the designation "Prior Art," as shown in the attached replacement sheets. These sheets, which include Figures 14-17, replace the original sheets including Figures 14-17.

Attachment: Replacement Sheets

REMARKS

The Official Action mailed December 2, 2004, has been received and its contents carefully noted. This response is filed within three months of the mailing date of the Official Action and therefore is believed to be timely without extension of time. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully submit that this response is being timely filed.

The Official Action states that the papers in the file do not match the current application and that the papers in the file belong to PCT/JP00/06383 instead of PCT/JP00/06868 (page 2, Paper No. 5). Pursuant with the attached *Request*, the Applicants respectfully request (1) that the Office correct the Filing Receipt to show that the present application is a 371 application of PCT/JP00/06838, filed October 2, 2000, (2) that the Office associate papers from PCT/JP00/06838 with the present application and (3) that any papers associated with PCT/JP00/06383 be expunged from the present application.

The Official Action asserts that the Office has not received an Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 19, 2002 (page 2, Paper No. 5). However, a copy of said IDS appears in the Image File Wrapper (IFW). In any event, in response to the Examiner's request, a copy of the above-referenced IDS is attached. The Applicants respectfully submit that copies of the references cited in the IDS appear in the IFW. The Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an initialed copy of the Form PTO-1449 evidencing consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed on February 19, 2002.

Claims 1-13 are pending in the present application, of which claims 1, 2, 6-8 and 13 are independent. The Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-5 and 7-13 (page 4, Paper No. 5). Claim 6 has been amended to better recite the features of the present invention. Claims 3, 8 and 9 have been amended to correct minor matters of form. For the reasons set forth in detail below, all claims are believed to be in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action objects to Figs. 15-17 as lacking a designation such as "Prior Art" (page 2, Paper No. 5). As required by the Official Action, the Applicants have amended Figs. 15-17 to include the designation "Prior Art," as shown in the attached replacement sheets. Reconsideration is requested.

The Official Action rejects claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph asserting that it is unclear whether the claimed subject matter is a method or an apparatus claim (page 3, Paper No. 5). Claim 6 has been amended to recite a circuit comprising a plurality of frame synchronization pattern detecting means, among other features. The Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6, as amended, defines an apparatus claim and is definite. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112 is in order and respectfully requested.

The Official Action rejects claim 6 as anticipated by Figure 15 of the Applicants' disclosure. The Applicants respectfully submit that an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained against independent claim 6 of the present application, as amended.

As stated in MPEP § 2131, to establish an anticipation rejection, each and every element as set forth in the claim must be described either expressly or inherently in a single prior art reference. Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987).

Figure 15 does not teach all the elements of amended independent claim 6, either explicitly or inherently. Claim 6 has been amended to recite a circuit comprising a plurality of frame synchronization pattern detecting means. Support for the amendment can be found in the specification, for example, at page 37, lines 4-18.

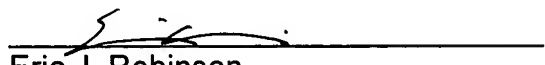
While Figure 15 shows a circuit structure of the prior art's synchronization acquiring circuit, Figure 8 shows a circuit structure of the present invention's improved synchronization acquiring circuit. As seen directly from the circuit structure as shown in Figure 8, the present invention's synchronization acquiring circuit comprises a plurality of frame synchronization pattern detection circuits, for example 54-1 ~ 54-5, which are disposed in parallel. Amended claim 6 clearly recites that the present invention's

synchronization acquiring circuit comprises a plurality of frame synchronization pattern detecting means. Figure 15 does not teach at least the above-referenced features of the present invention, either explicitly or inherently.

Since Figure 15 does not teach all the elements of the independent claims, either explicitly or inherently, an anticipation rejection cannot be maintained. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102 are in order and respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,


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Docket: 740670-272

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re New Patent Application of)
Kenichi SHIRAISHI et al.)
International Application No. PCT/JP00/06838) Attn: US/DO/EO
International Filing Date: October 2, 2000)
For: METHOD AND CIRCUIT FOR)
ACQUISITION) Date: February 19, 2002

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT


Honorable Commissioner for Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the provisions of 37 C.F.R. 1.56 and 37 C.F.R. 1.97-1.99, it is requested that the references listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 be made of record in the above-identified application.

Copies of these references are submitted herewith in accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98(a). These references were cited in the International Search Report.

Respectfully submitted,


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